Osmanabad districts in Maharashtra, Jabalpur, Ratlam, Khandwa and Indore area in Madhya Pradesh, Talcher in Orissa, Birbhum and Hooghly districts in West Bengal, Sikkim-Bhutan border, Daltonganj in Bihar, Assam and Delhi, Moderate earthquakes occurred in Manipur Myanmar border.

(b) and (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards has published criteria or earthquake resistant design of structures spelling out different earthquake resistant design parameters to be adopted in different parts of the country. State Goverments are responsible for post earthquake relief operation often with the assistance of Central Government. The Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has circulated to all State Governments a National Contingency Action Plan to be adopted by States for mitigation of disastrous events like earthquakes. The State Governments are to prepare and update their own Relief Manual son the basis if this contingency plan which also identifies the focal points in the Government for the maagement of atural dsasters.

Popularisation of Sciece among the students

1481. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy relating to Science and Technology envisages inter-alia popularisation of Science among the students at their early age;

(b) whether Government have evolved anv specific action plan to realise the importance of inculcating a scientific temper among school students.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any specific action has been taken particularly for incorporation of such action plan in the academic curriculum in oschools, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACEC IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Scientific Policy Resolution of Government of India (March 4, 1958) clearly brings out the need and importance of the scientific approach, method and use of scientific knowledge for the progress and welfare of the society. This is also one of the core curriculum area of the National Policy on Education 1986 The Programme of Action 1992 has spelt out salient features of National Curriculum Framework in this conext on page 89, where it is stated "Objectives of science education....to develop in the child well defined abilities and [illegible] such as spirit of enquiring creativi[illegible]tivity, courage to question and aesthetic sensibility".

To inculcate a scientific temper among the people and communicate/popularise science and technology (S & T), Government of India has established a nodal agency, viz. National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) in the early eighties. The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has plans of setting up National, Regional, State and district level science centres all over the country and through them of inculcating scientific temper among students of all ages.

(d) The NCERT has produced both print and non-print instructional materials which strive to inculcate scientific temper, reasoning and creativity among the elementary school children. The video programmes produced by the CIET/SIETs are telecast daily from Monday to Friday covering twelve states and the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Activities appropriate for inculcation of scientific temper have been incorporated in the science textbooks developed by the NCERT. Children's Science Exhibitions, which are held each year at the State and National levels have contributed in children's involvement with innovative project activities in science and technology.

The National Children's Science Congress supported by the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Science and Technology and Environment and Forest, has attempted to demonstrate on a large scale that science practicals in the formal curriculum can be gradually replaced by project activities which emphasive learning by ding and the use of the method of science by students at all levels.

Meteoric threat to mamnate satellites

1482. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the astronomers have recently warned that the meteor stars would envelope earth's orbit between 1997 and 2000 and threaten man-date satellites orbiting the planet; and

(b) whether any studies have been made in the matter and if so, the preventive steps proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Department of Space has no information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting answer to the Question

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY DEPTT. OF INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (DEPTT. OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th August, 1994 to Unstarred Question 2397 regarding voluntary retirement scheme in BHEL. (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6648/94)

I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1994 to Unstarred Question 1435 regarding orders placed by Coal India Limited with HEC.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6649/84)

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): They have corrected it, but we do not know what they have corrected. They could have circulated the correction.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Madam, we have circulated it and there was only some typing mistake.

(The Deputy Chairman In The Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Reports and Accounts (1993-94) of the various Institutions and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND ... AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): Madam, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Science Congress Association, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-6587/94).

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Facility for Animal Tissue and Cell Culture, Pune, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-6588/94).